

### Demonstration

#### List HEPA filter uses on site

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- To replace old filters, use only new filters specified by the manufacturer.
- HEPA filters cannot be cleaned. They must be replaced with filters approved by the manufacturer.
- Don't punch holes in HEPA filters or pre-filters when they get clogged.
- Don't use compressed air to clean old filters or bang old filters to remove accumulated dust.
- Dispose of old filters as contaminated waste

#### Explain dangers

“HEPA” stands for “high-efficiency particulate aerosol.” HEPA filters can trap the microscopic toxic particles that pass right through ordinary filters.

HEPA filters can pose problems when they

- are not replaced as required
- are not properly certified

To qualify as a HEPA filter, the filter must be certified by the Institute of Environment Sciences.

A filter passing the certification test is given a number and the test results are recorded on the label.

#### Identify controls

In construction there are two main applications for HEPA filters:

- 1) industrial HEPA vacuum cleaners
  - 2) negative air filtration units.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instruction manual.
  - If a vacuum or negative air unit requires a HEPA filter, make sure one is installed.
  - Follow manufacturer's instructions on when and how to change the filter.
  - Filters are contaminated with toxic substances. When inspecting or replacing filters, do so in a safe, well controlled place and wear personal protective clothing and equipment that may include an N100 NIOSH-approved air-purifying respirator, dust-resistant safety goggles, disposable coveralls, and impervious gloves.

#### Demonstrate as you talk

- To ensure that the HEPA filter is authentic, look for the label from the Institute of Environment Sciences.
- Make sure the filter is not installed backwards, is properly seated in its housing, and is tightly secured.
- Inspect the filter housing for signs of dust that indicate the filter is being bypassed. A HEPA filter is useless if the housing leaks.
- Inspect the filter carefully for build-up and damage. If the filter appears to be clogged or damaged in any way, replace it with a new filter.
- Dust particles in the exhaust air flow mean the HEPA filter has ruptured or failed and must be replaced.